

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-15 and 17 have been amended herein, and claims 9 and 16 depend from amended claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claims 1, 4 and 11 have been amended herein, and claims 2-3, 5-10, and 12-17 depend from the amended independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8, and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawata (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,777).

Kawata discloses a digital data processor executing a sorting sub-instruction by completing multiple complex cycles through complex pipeline circuitry – (1) a fetching cycle, by reading a sorting sub-instruction to an instruction register; (2) a decoding cycle, wherein the instruction functions by applying the contents of source fields of the sorting sub-instruction to a first control circuit, and storing the contents of the registers specified by control signals of the first circuit in input registers, at the same time latching by a first latch fields specified by a selection criteria field; (3) an operating cycle, by applying a

field of the sorting sub-instruction to a control circuit from a latch, applying a signal so that subtraction instructed by the sorting sub-instruction will be performed, sending and recovering data, subtracting input data from buses for comparison and setting a sign first; and (4) a writing cycle by applying the content of a latch to control circuit, preparing a control signal from a sign bit of a conditional code register, preparing a selection signal, selecting the content of a temporary register based on the value of an applied control signal, and outputting the selected data (column 4, line 14 – column 5, line 9; figure 1).

The sorting of data is disclosed in Kawata as the number of pieces of data being equal to the number of sorting sub-instructions that can be completed (column 5, lines 29-32 and 54-58), whereas in contrast, in the claimed invention, the total number of basic processes (comparison processing and selection processing) or basic cells (data comparators and data selectors), not pieces of data as in Kawata, is equal to the number of combinations of pieces of input data to be compared, not sorting sub-instructions as in Kawata. In further contrast, the claimed invention includes basic cells which include data comparators and data selectors, and basic cells which compare and rearrange cells of key data and relevant data, not the multiplicity of registers, latches, control circuits and the arithmetic and logic unit in Kawata as set forth above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-10 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawata in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,667). Since

these claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claims, it is submitted that they are patentable in view of the patentability of the independent claims as set forth above.

Dependent Claims

In view of the patentability of the underlying independent claims over Kawata as set forth above, it is submitted that the claims depending therefrom are likewise patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted in view of the above that there is no teaching or suggestion of applicant's invention as claimed in the claims submitted herewith, within the scope of the disclosure of the cited references, without extensive modification and the exercise of inventive talent.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that it be passed to issue. If there are any issues which can be discussed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at (310) 242-2732.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee relating to this response to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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